

[First Reprint]

# **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 124**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator NIA H. GILL**

**District 34 (Essex and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman PATRICIA EGAN JONES**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Greenstein, Assemblywoman Pinkin and Assemblyman Gusciora**

**SYNOPSIS**

Memorializes Congress to repeal the moratorium on firearm violence research and funding.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on January 23, 2017, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2017)

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the United States  
2 Congress to fund the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
3 research to study firearm violence.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in  
6 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the leading  
7 national public health institute of the United States; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, The CDC studies a variety of public health threats every  
9 year, from infectious diseases to automobile safety; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, Firearms violence is one of the top causes of death in the  
11 United States for people under the age of 65; and  
12   **WHEREAS**, Although the CDC keeps surveillance data on firearm  
13 injuries and deaths, it has not funded a comprehensive study aimed  
14 at reducing harm from firearms since 2001; and  
15   **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Congress included language in the 1996  
16 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1997,  
17 known as the Dickey Amendment, prohibiting the CDC's  
18 appropriations dedicated for injury prevention and control from  
19 being used to advocate or promote firearm control, and  
20 concurrently reduced the CDC's budget by \$2.6 million which was  
21 the amount the CDC had invested in firearm injury research the  
22 previous year; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, The CDC's online guide for grants funded by the agency's  
24 Injury Control Research Centers currently includes a section titled  
25 *Prohibition on Use of CDC Funds for Certain Gun Control*  
26 *Activities*, which states that "In addition to the restrictions in the  
27 Anti-Lobbying Act, CDC interprets the language in the CDC's  
28 Appropriations Act to mean that CDC's funds may not be spent on  
29 political action or other activities designed to affect the passage of  
30 specific Federal, State, or local legislation intended to restrict or  
31 control the purchase or use of firearms"; and  
32   **WHEREAS**, More Americans have been killed by firearms since 1968  
33 than have died in all the United States wars combined, beginning  
34 with the Revolutionary War; and  
35   **WHEREAS**, In recent years the United States has been witness to  
36 numerous horrific and preventable firearms-related mass tragedies,  
37 which have heightened awareness of the danger that exists when  
38 adequate protections are not utilized to ensure that only responsible  
39 firearm owners have access to firearms; and  
40   **WHEREAS**, After the terrible tragedy of the Sandy Hook Elementary  
41 School shooting on December 14, 2012, President Barack Obama  
42 released his national plan for addressing firearm violence, including  
43 an initiative to "end the freeze on gun violence research,"  
44 emphasizing that the large number of annual firearm-related  
45 homicides and suicides each year clearly is a public health crisis,

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SLP committee amendments adopted January 23, 2017.

1 and asserting that research on firearm violence is not advocacy, but  
2 critical to public health research; and

3 **WHEREAS**, In 2014, the CDC budgeted \$59 million <sup>1</sup>**[in 2014]**<sup>1</sup> to  
4 study coal mining deaths, \$10 million to study Lyme disease, \$105  
5 million to study the effects of tobacco, and \$67 million to study  
6 diabetes, and although 32,000 American deaths annually occur by a  
7 firearm, no funding is being allocated to the CDC to determine the  
8 root cause; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The American Psychological Association endorses ending  
10 the freeze on federal firearms violence research, indicating that the  
11 ban has significantly hampered psychological scientists' ability to  
12 systematically assess the risk of assault and other weapons to the  
13 public, and to determine the effectiveness of various violence  
14 prevention measures; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The American Medical Association recently called firearm  
16 violence "a public health crisis" and called for Congress to permit  
17 the CDC to conduct meaningful research to understand the effects  
18 of firearms on public health; and

19 **WHEREAS**, It is clear that action by Congress is required to restore  
20 funding to identify solutions for firearm violence, enhance public  
21 safety, and prevent further deaths by firearms; and

22 **WHEREAS**, In order to protect our nation's children and other citizens  
23 from further danger of firearm violence, Congress is urged to  
24 reinstate the CDC's ability to conduct research aimed at studying  
25 and reducing harm from firearm violence; now, therefore,

26

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*  
28 *General Assembly Concurring):*

29

30 1. The United States Congress is respectfully memorialized to  
31 enact legislation to repeal the Dicky Amendment and fully fund the  
32 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research to study  
33 firearm violence.

34

35 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
36 shall be transmitted by the <sup>1</sup>Clerk of the General Assembly or the<sup>1</sup>  
37 Secretary of the Senate <sup>1</sup>**[and the Clerk of the General Assembly]**<sup>1</sup>  
38 to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the  
39 United States, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United  
40 States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States  
41 House of Representatives, and to every member of Congress elected  
42 from this State.